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Security Council

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20 July 2006

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Letter dated 19 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request that, in accordance with its previous practice, the Security Council invite the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations to participate in the meeting of the Council that will be held on Friday, 21 July 2006, regarding the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

(*Signed*) Nadya **Rasheed**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 20 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to persist in its barbaric military campaign against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, causing extensive loss of human life and vast destruction of property and infrastructure, in grave breach of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights laws. The result has been the murder of scores of innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children, by the Israeli occupying forces. Since my last letter to you, on 18 July 2006, only 48 hours ago, the occupying forces have killed at least 19 Palestinians, including 4 children, and injured over 80 Palestinian civilians. We continue to reiterate that such criminal actions committed by the Israeli occupying forces must be firmly and explicitly condemned by the international community, and they must be held accountable and brought to justice.

The most recent Israeli crime occurred yesterday, Wednesday, 19 July 2006, when an undercover unit of the Israeli occupying forces, backed by heavy armoured vehicles, bulldozers, helicopters and unmanned drones, attacked the Palestinian refugee population of the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, resulting in the deaths of at least 12 Palestinians, including 2 children. In another tragic incident, Israeli occupying forces entered the West Bank town of Nablus from three directions, surrounding a Palestinian security compound, Al-Muqata, resulting in the killing of seven more Palestinians. During the same military attack on Nablus and its inhabitants, Israeli bulldozers tore down the offices of the Ministry of Interior as well as offices used by the Palestinian security services. Moreover, Israeli occupying forces also stormed the office of the Palestine News Agency in the West Bank city of Ramallah as well as the headquarters of the Ramallah Governorate, ransacking the property and arresting five citizens, including two police guards, leading them to an unknown location. Such destruction demonstrates, yet again, the

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intention of Israel, the occupying Power, to deliberately destroy Palestinian National Authority institutions and vital infrastructure.

The Palestinian people and their leadership continue to reiterate their urgent appeals to the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold their legal obligations and to take action to bring to an end the senseless and ruthless daily slaughter of Palestinians and the unjustifiable destruction being deliberately committed by Israel, the occupying Power. The international community cannot continue to ignore its responsibilities under international law, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention, to address this crisis and bring about an end to all forms of aggression perpetuated by the occupying Power against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The continuation and intensification of Israel's military campaign against the Palestinian people will clearly lead only to more bloodshed and more suffering by innocent civilians on both sides, which should be avoided at all costs.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 255 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 18 July 2006 (A/ES-10/348-S/2006/538), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. Moreover, we reiterate once again that for all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

In follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that since my last letter to you just two days ago, at least 19 more Palestinian civilians, including children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 4,067. (The names of the martyrs who have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nadya **Rasheed**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 July 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Wednesday, 19 July 2006, to Thursday, 20 July 2006)

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

1. Sa'ed Sami Qandeel
2. Omar Abu Sho'eibah
3. Mohammad Al-Basheeti
4. Oma Abu-Mohaissin
5. Ali Kamel Al-Najjar (16 years old)
6. Ahmad Al-Na'ami
7. Attieh Abu Abdu
8. Hanan Al-Arouqi
9. Youssef Allalli
10. Mahmoud Miqdad Al-Khateeb
11. Hossam Nasser Al-Badrsawi
12. Mohammad Mostafa Abu Lail
13. Omran Ibrahim Alem
14. Shadi Zaid Al-Kilani
15. Ahmad Sanakri (17 years old)
16. Na'el Yaseen

Thursday, 20 July 2006

1. Yasser Mohammad Abu Libda
2. Mohammad Awad Mohra (16 years old)
3. Fadwa Al-Arouqi (10 years old) (daughter of Hanan Al-Arouqi mentioned above)

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 4,067.

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Letter dated 19 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the decision of the Parliament of Georgia on peacekeeping forces in conflict zones (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the decision of the Parliament of Georgia on peacekeeping forces in conflict zones

On 18 July 2006, the Parliament of Georgia adopted a decision on peacekeeping forces in conflict zones which obligates the Government to initiate steps to end peacekeeping operations in Abkhazia and South Ossetia as soon as possible, terminate the relevant agreements and arrangements and bring about the immediate withdrawal from Georgia of Russian peacekeeping contingents that are stationed there fully in accordance with international agreements currently in force. The decision provides for commencement of a process to change peacekeeping arrangements and deploy international police forces in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

During the discussion of the draft decision, some deputies went so far as to say that, unless those conditions were accepted, the Russian peacekeepers would be declared unlawful and treated as occupying forces. The decision falsely claims that the actions of the Russian peacekeepers in Abkhazia and South Ossetia present one of the main obstacles to peaceful settlement of the conflicts.

The Russian Federation regards the decision as a provocative step designed to aggravate tension, destroy the existing format of negotiations and shatter the framework of legal agreements for the peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian conflicts. The accusations that the decision makes against the Russian Federation constitute a disgraceful attempt to shift the blame to others.

We consider that the language of ultimatums that Georgia is using with respect to Russian peacekeepers is counterproductive. Unilateral decisions cannot be allowed to lead to abrogation of the relevant international agreements. Our position remains unchanged: the adoption of parliamentary decisions on the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers can only entail a fresh crisis and a humanitarian catastrophe. In recent years, Russia, in cooperation with foreign partners and international organizations, has exerted considerable efforts to maintain a fragile balance that has now been shattered by the bellicose rhetoric of Georgian politicians and their attempts to use provocation and military force to resolve the problems of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It is only through existing peacekeeping mechanisms that it has been possible to keep the situation under control.

It should not be forgotten that the format of the negotiation process, which, besides the Russian Federation, involves the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the member States of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General on Georgia, was agreed upon by all parties to the conflicts. The irresponsible actions of Tbilisi are capable of ruling out any possibility of peaceful settlement of the conflicts.

The Russian Federation will take such measures as are necessary to ensure compliance with existing international agreements, prevent the destabilization of the situation in the region and protect the rights and interests of Russian citizens living there.